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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **MAEDA, Tatsuya**

Group Art Unit: **2877**

Serial No.: **09/963,575**

Examiner: **Vincent P. Barth**

Filed: **September 27, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 9690

For: **INSPECTION METHOD AND INSPECTION OF A TERMINAL METAL FITTING**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

May 20, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated **February 4, 2003**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 as indicated below:

1. (Amended) An inspection method of a terminal metal fitting having a wire connecting portion having a wall carrying an electric wire and a crimping piece bent toward the wall so as to fasten the electric wire between the crimping piece and the wall, comprising the steps of:

illuminating the wire connecting portion fastened to the electric wire;

binary-processing an image of the wire connecting portion being illuminated;

calculating whether an area is less than or not less than a threshold value in image information obtained by the binary processing; and

judging good or bad of a fastening condition of the electric wire by the crimping piece on a

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